

5 May 01

COMMANDING OFFICER'S POLICY MEMORANDUM #01-2001

From: Commanding Officer, U. S. Naval Mobile Construction
Battalion FIVE
To: Distribution

Subj: ALCOHOL AWARENESS POLICY FOR OKINAWA DEPLOYMENT 2001

1. Alcohol consumption is never an excuse for misconduct. It is a well-known fact that alcohol and alcohol-related incidents account for nearly three-quarters of all of our Mast cases. While I believe that most of us know that the use of alcohol affects our judgment and our behavior, many people do not realize to what degree and feel that it doesn't apply to them. As members of NMCB FIVE, I expect us to live by high standards, set the example by our behavior, and to take care of each other. Responsible use of alcohol is completely acceptable and many Seabees choose to drink with no impact on their lives, their shipmates, or our mission. Unfortunately, there are those who do abuse alcohol and it results in degraded operational readiness, impacts our safety, causes lost duty hours, reduces our efficiency and causes poor decision making and all too often results in serious injury or even death. If you choose to drink, do so responsibly.

2. All NMCB FIVE personnel are subject to these policies while on or off duty, on or off camp, including but not limited to, TDY/TAD, (for any reason), and leave of any type. Drinking responsibly means several things:

a. The legal drinking age is 20 in Okinawa, Japan, on mainland Japan, and Korea with the exception of USMC base installations on which the drinking age is 21.

b. In any group activity involving alcohol consumption, the senior person in the group is responsible for group behavior. Everyone is a leader and everyone is accountable for their actions and those they are with. Shipmates are expected to take care of their shipmates.

c. No alcohol is permitted in rooms of personnel that are under the age of 20, even if one roommate is over 20 years of age.

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d. Officers-in-charge, Company Commanders or Department Heads shall inform both the Executive Officer and Command Master Chief in advance of unit level events where alcohol is provided. Both non-alcoholic and alcoholic beverages will be provided with emphasis on non-alcoholic beverages. Hard liquor is not authorized at unit level events. OIC's, Company Commanders or Department Heads will identify a senior person (E6 or above) charged with the responsibility for the group's alcohol usage and charged with the accountability for the group's conduct. Absence by the designated senior person from the activity does not alleviate accountability. The senior designated person is encouraged to set the example by not consuming alcoholic beverages.

e. Some government vehicles may be used for personal use while on liberty. Under no circumstances may personnel consume any alcohol and operate a government vehicle. The person that checks out the vehicle will be the "Designated Driver" and will not consume any alcohol.

f. Under age Seabees may be present at an event where alcohol is served. However, they may not drink any alcohol. Responsibility for compliance with the law begins with each individual and ends with senior personnel present including Company Commanders and

Department Heads.

g. Personnel will not consume alcohol within 8 hours of going on a duty status.

3. Alcohol-related incidents are a result of the abuse of alcohol and will not be tolerated. An alcohol-related incident is defined as conduct or behavior, where the individual has consumed alcohol and has had discreditable involvement with civil and/or military authorities (does not require NJP, C-M, or civil conviction). Events requiring medical care or involving a suspicious public or domestic disturbance will be carefully evaluated to determine if alcohol was a contribution factor, if so, it is an alcohol related incident. Some examples of "incidents" include: underage drinking, DUI/DWI, fighting, hospitalization or events requiring medical care, vandalism, domestic or public disturbances, drunk and disorderly, supplying alcohol to a minor, being under the influence of alcohol at work, being unfit for duty, and other adverse incidents.

a. All alcohol-related incidents are subject to a report chit and appropriate disciplinary action (i.e. Captains Mast, XOI, or DRB).

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4. Anyone UA from morning quarters for more than 30-minutes or anyone who appears to be under the influence of alcohol at the start of the workday will report to the MAA for a field sobriety test. If they fail the field sobriety test, the MAA will ask them to consent to a BAC. If they refuse the BAC, they will be given a probable cause BAC.

5. We must all be proactive in the prevention and elimination of alcohol-related incidents. As a Command, we will do the following to help prevent alcohol-related incidents:

a. Not allow alcohol in the Barracks rooms of underage Seabee's.

b. Offer help through the Command DAPA and CAAC referral for all incidents. Encourage personnel to see the DAPA before they have an alcohol-related incident for counseling and support. Self-referrals to the DAPA will remain confidential and provide the opportunity to seek solutions and counseling to prevent future problems from occurring. Seeking help for a drinking problem won't jeopardize your Navy career; however, continued alcohol abuse can make you do things that will harm or even end your career.

c. Promote the Navy's "Right Spirit" program which encourages the responsible use of alcohol.

d. Provide training on alcohol awareness through NMT, Alcohol AWARE, ADAMS classes, PREVENT 2001, or other means.

6. Maintaining a command climate that reflects the Navy's core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment is my goal. Responsible use of alcohol is allowable and our conduct will help us ensure

NMCB FIVE continues to live up to our motto: "The Professionals". Should you have any questions or concerns about this policy, talk to your immediate supervisor, your Company Chief, the Drug and Alcohol Program Advisor, the Command Master Chief, or me.

Remember,

"If Alcohol causes a problem, then alcohol is a problem"!

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M. A. HANDLEY

Distribution:

NMCBFIVEINST 5216.2P

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